**UNE RECINTO DE CAROLIINA**

**“SHORT STORY ANALYSIS”**

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**Synopsis**

In the story “The Tell-Tale Heart”, written by Edgar Allen Poe, the main character who is the narrator lives with an old man. The narrator is creped out by the old man’s eye. He later becomes so obsessed with his eye that he eventually suffocates the old man with his mattress. He then hides the body under the floorboards which at that same time the police come to his door. He begins conversation with them great at first, but when he claims he hears the heart beat of the old man, the cops see something is not right. After not standing the sound of the beating heart he confesses and starts tearing up the floorboards.

**Edgar Allen Poe**

Edgar Allan Poe was born on January 19, 1809 in Boston, Massachusetts. Both of his parents died before he was three years old. With his parents deceased, he soon was adopted by a wealthy tobacco merchant from Richmond, Virginia. John Allen, his adoptive parent, gave Edgar a good life. Until the age of 17, John kicked him out due to his gambling problem and debts. Edgar Allan had no money, no job skills, and had been shunned by dad, so he went to Boston and joined the U.S. Army in 1827. In 1831, Edgar Allan Poe went to New York City where he had some of his poetry published. He submitted stories to a number of magazines and they were all rejected. Poe had no friends, no job, and was in financial trouble.

Poe experienced his first literary success when his short story “Manuscript Found in a Bottle” won a cash prize. He began working for magazines, but his unpredictable behavior and heavy drinking often got him into trouble. He was fired from work. In the same year, Poe went to work for Graham’s Magazine, which published his famous story “The Murders in the Rue Morgue.” It became so popular that many scholars called it the world’s first modern detective story. Poe was a writer obsessed with the elements of fear and death, and especially the supernatural. About this time, he also got married to Virginia Clemm, a 13 year old cousin.

Poe went into a depression after his wife died of tuberculosis. He died at the young age of 40, on October 7, 1849. The mystery surrounding Poe's death has led to many myths and urban legends. The reality is that no one knows for sure what happened during the last few days of his life.

**Reader’s Response**

In this story, *The Tell-Tale Heart*, Edgar Allan Poe interprets a murder and how committing one has an impact on the human’s conscience. The narrator, who is the main character, has a problem with the old man’s eye who he believes is “Evil”. He almost felt like the eye was mocking him, which would be insane of course. The weird thing is that the main character only has a problem with the old man’s eye and not with the old man himself, in which we see Poe trying to portray the eye as another character.

Edgar Allan Poe used a lot of description in this short story, when he starts of the story he states many ways people might believe how he is, like insane, mad, and crazy which I would believe all three. After plotting the murder and Edgar puts the main character in the position of guilt. Poe’s description of guilt is very strong, how the narrator believes he is actually hearing the beating heart of the old man. Everything was good with the cops who came to investigate until he showed a little craziness, product of the guilt the narrator has from killing the old man.

Eventually his guilt led the main character to his confession where the scene of the story was him tearing up the floorboards. Probably the murder was too much to put up with and the supposed heart beat anyone would of cracked. The morale of this short story is simple, if you do something bad your guilt will put you to justice.

**Phenomenology**

Phenomenology is the criticism of experience of past events. In this story I found phenomenology in the sense that I relate to the situation that happened in this short story. The situation in this story is how the main character got conceived by guilt. He never points out regret but he felt guilt which was also never pointed out but described as the sound of the heart beat.

The situation that occurred to me was back in my childhood, 6 or 7 years old. I was never spoiled but not unattended. I was just desperate and wanted something so bad that the thought of taking it without permission occurred to me various times. It was a game from my friend. I wanted it so bad that I eventually stole it. My opportunity came to be when he told me he was moving to another state. I slept at his house and had my chance to take it and so I did.

Eventually he noticed it was gone and told me. I never thought he would catch me, which he never did. It was just the thought of me doing something wrong to a friend that took over me. Every time I went to his house after that day, I could see his determination of still trying to find it in his room, which I know it impossible since it was sitting atop my game console. Much like the main character in the short story, I eventually confessed of my crime and almost lost a friend, but didn’t, in a normal he said,” if you wanted it you should of just asked”. Since my friend already bored of the game, he told me to just keep it as a reminder of me.

**Genre Criticism**

Since in the short story the narrator commits a murder to an innocent old man, I would classify this story under the genre of tragedy. Edgar Allan had a high interest in dark genres like this one. Since the narrator, who is also the main character, has a “thing” with the old man’s eye believing it was evil, he starts plotting his murder. Every night he would stick his head in the old man’s room watching over him like a vulture, waiting for hi perfect chance to take out that evil eye.

Tragedy becomes the story when he murders the old man with the mattress. He feels not regret but satisfaction, which I believe is simply mad. He feels satisfaction up to the point that he hears a beat that he claims is the old man’s. In this part of the story you could see the tone changes to pressure and desperation. His madness drive him to a clean confession with the policemen who visit his house to investigate after a call. The cops must have been surprised at his desperate confession